

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA SENATE 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Call to Order:** Chair Chas Vincent, on February 6, 2017 at 3:30 PM, in Room 303 Capitol

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Chas Vincent, Chair (R)  
Sen. Jeffrey W. Welborn, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Duane Ankney (R)  
Sen. Dick Barrett (D)  
Sen. Jill Cohenour (D)  
Sen. Pat Connell (R)  
Sen. Jennifer Fielder (R)  
Sen. Jedediah Hinkle (R)  
Sen. Mary McNally (D)  
Sen. Mike Phillips (D)  
Sen. JP Pomnichowski (D)  
Sen. Tom Richmond (R)

**Members Excused:** None

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Pat Christian, Committee Secretary  
Hope Stockwell, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 53, 2/3/2017; HJ 3, 2/3/2017

**HEARING ON HJ 3**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:15 Rep. Zach Brown (D), HD 63, opened the hearing on HJ 3, Interim study of water right change process.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:03:37 Abigail St. Lawrence, Montana Association of Realtors  
00:05:46 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Coalition and Association of Gallatin  
Agricultural Irrigators (SrWRC)  
00:07:35 Jay Bodner, Montana Stock Growers Association  
00:08:35 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association  
00:09:22 Chelcie Cargill, Montana Farm Bureau Federation  
00:11:08 Levi Ostberg, Montana Farmers Union

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

00:12:06 Millie Heffner, Water Rights Bureau chief, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:12:28 Sen. Barrett  
00:13:00 Rep. Brown  
00:17:09 Sen. Pomnichowski  
00:17:51 Ms. Heffner, DNRC  
00:18:15 Sen. Pomnichowski  
00:18:43 Ms. Heffner  
00:19:17 Sen. Pomnichowski  
00:20:04 Rep. Brown  
00:22:18 Sen. Pomnichowski  
00:22:25 Rep. Brown  
00:23:59 Sen. Pomnichowski  
00:24:21 Rep. Brown  
00:24:45 Sen. Pomnichowski  
00:24:57 Ms. Evans, SrWRC  
00:26:44 Sen. Phillips  
00:27:05 Ms. Heffner  
00:27:34 Sen. Phillips  
00:27:57 Ms. Heffner  
00:28:18 Chair Vincent  
00:28:58 Ms. Evans

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:29:58 Rep. Brown

**HEARING ON HB 53**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:31:38 Rep. Zach Brown (D), HD 63, opened the hearing on HB 53, Repeal assessment computation statute for conservation districts.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:32:44 Mark Bostrum, Conservation District Resource Development administrator,  
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

00:34:24 Elena Evans, executive director, Montana Association of Conservation Districts

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:35:15 Rep. Brown

**Committee Business:**

00:35:36 Chair Vincent

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 4:08 PM

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Pat Christian, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([nas26aad.pdf](#))